

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 16, 2006

Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.
Acting Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Dr. Eschenbach:

We are alarmed by recent reports about the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) seizing prescription medications purchased by Americans through the mail from foreign countries.

There is a growing chorus of outraged Americans concerned that access to affordable prescription drugs is being denied to them. The House of Representatives has expressed its will the last three years and passed an amendment to deny the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the authority to use taxpayer dollars to prevent the importation of prescription drugs for personal use. Yet, recently, American citizens have had their life-saving prescription drugs seized by CBP and destroyed. This is happening at a much higher rate than in the past.

We believe this unannounced policy of increased enforcement is irresponsible. If CBP officials, in conjunction with other federal agencies, has decided to increase the seizure rate of imported prescription drugs meant for personal use they need to explain why.

American citizens have been purchasing prescription drugs from Canadian pharmacies for many years. In Minnesota, Illinois, and other states, governments have set up programs to help citizens purchase medicines from Canada. Other states are considering doing the same. Our constituents have come to expect that the products they purchase from reputable stores will arrive at their home in a timely manner.

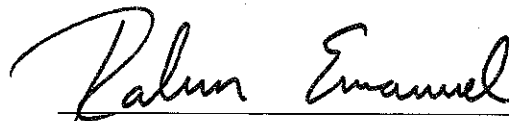
This action fuels the criticism that our government is more interested in protecting the profits of the pharmaceutical industry than the health of our citizens.

Your prompt and complete explanation of these actions is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Gil Gutknecht
Member of Congress



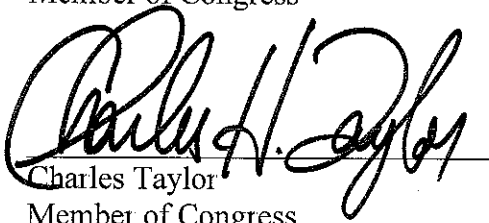
Rahm Emanuel
Member of Congress



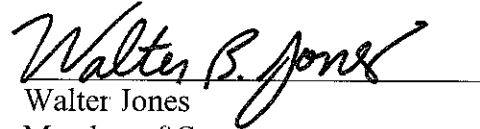
Dan Burton
Member of Congress



Bernard Sanders
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Charles Taylor
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